

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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R 181544Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

USIA PASS IBS, IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT UR

SUBJ: SOLZHENITSY.

REF: MOSCOW 592

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET CULTURAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISEHD LETTERS
JANUARY 18 WICH ATTACK SOLZHENITSYN BUT DO NOT CALL FOR HIS
PUNISHMENT. TWO FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNALS BLASTED WESTERN
"COLD WARRIORS" WHO USE SOLZHENITSYN TO TRY TO UNDERMINE
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DETENTE. BOTH ALSO ATTACK RADIO LIBERTY, EMPHASIZING CIA

CONNECTION, BUT INDICATE THAT USIA AND VOA ARE ACTING IN MORE RESTRAINED MANNER IN LIGHT OF IMPROVED RELATIONS.

2. SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA, SEMI-WEEKLY CULTURAL NEWSPAPERS OF CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PUBLISHED JANUARY 18 FOUR BACK-PAGE LETTERS FROM READERS IN RESPONSE TO PRAVA JANAUR 14 ATTACK ON SOLZHENITSYN (REFTEL). LETTERS, WHICH ARE SIGNED BY LITTLE-KNOWN CULTURAL FIGURES, EXPRESS "OUTRAGE" AT SOLZHENITSYN'S BEHAVIOR, WITH LIBERAL USE OF TERMINOLOGY LIKE "RENEGADE," "INTERNAL EMIGREE.", AND "TRAITOR." ONE LETTER SAYS IT IS LIKE A "STAB IN THE BACK" THAT THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IS USED TO "BLACKEN" ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOCIALISM. ANOTHER ASSERTS THAT IT IS ESPECIALLY "VILE" THAT SOLZHENITSYN SLANDERS AND LIES ABOUT HIS COUNTRY WHEN GREAT STRIDES ARE BEING MADE TOWARD PEACE. YET ANOTHER SCORNS HIS SWISS LAWYER, OVERSEAS BANK ACCOUNTS AND AUTOMOBILES, AND CLAIMS HE AGREES WITH TERRORISTS IN CHILE, ZIONIST BANDITS, AND SMOTHERERS OF FREEDOM IN VIETNAM. NONW OF LETTERS CALL FOR SOLZHENITSYN'S PUNISHMENT.

2. ON SAME DAYBN NOVOYE VREMYA RAN FULL PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED, "WHO APPLAUDS SOLZHENITSYN?" WHILE ZA RUBEZOM ATTACKED HIM IN ARTICLE DESCRIBING ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN OF WESTERN REACTIONARIES. NOVOYE VREMYA FIRST ALLEGES THAT RADIO LIBERTY RECEIVED RIGHTS TO BROADCAST TEXT OF GULAG FROM SOLZHENITSYN'S SWISS LAWYER FOR "\$2,000" AND POINTS OUT THAT RL FINANCED BY U.S. CONGRESS AND EARILER BY CIA. ARTICLE THEN CLAIMS THAT BOOK WAS IN HANDS OF PRINTERS IN EARLY SUMMER BUT PUBLISHING HELD UP BECAUSE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT (I.E., AFTER BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN AND TIME OF VISITS TO U.S. AND FRANCE WHEN MOVEMENT TOWARD DETENTE STRONG). BOOK ALLEGEDLY PUBLISHED AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF TENSIONS PRODUCED BY CHILEAN AND MIDDLE EAST EVENTS AND MFN DEBATES IN U.S. CONGRESS. ADDITIONAL FACTOR, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, IS DESIRE TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM MOUNTING SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND SCANDALS IN THE WEST.

4. ARTICLE ALSO CITES USIA OFFICICLAS QUOTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE AS SAYING THAT "IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND U.S., "VOA WILL NOT BROADCAST TEXT OF BOOK. ONE OFFICIAL QUOTED AS "THREATENING" TO CARRY "COMMENTARY." ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT EVEN USIA THEREBY "RECOGNIZES THE BOOK CAUSES DAMAGE TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE." BBC AND DEUTCHE WELLE BROADCASTS ATTACHED IN STRONGER TERMS.

5. ZA RUBEZOM, AFTER LISTING ATTEMPTS BY WESTERN COLD WARRIORS TO UNDERMINE DETENTE, QUOTES CPUSA DAILY WORLD ARTICLE WHICH CLAIMS THAT SOLZHENITYSN HAS "RENEWED HIS ARRANGMENT WITH THE CIA," IN CONNECTION WITH RL BROADCASTS OF HIS WORKS.

6. COMMENT: IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT FIRST READER RESPONSE TO PRAVDA ATTACK ON SOLZHENITSYN APPEARED IN SPECIALIZED, RELATIVELY LOW CIRCULATION CULTURAL NEWSPAPER. THIS CONTRASTS WITH ANTI-SAKHAROV CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS KICKED OFF BY LETTERS IN CENTRAL PRESS SIGNED BY PROMINENT FIGURES. OTHER ARTICLES SERVE PURPOSE OF WARNING DOMESTIC AUDIENCE OF WESTERN "SUBVERSIVE" EFFORTS AND FUELING SOVIET ARGUEMENTS ABOUT DANGERS OF FREER FLOW IN INFORMATION.DUBS

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